

I am a 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate at the University of Oregon, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry in June of 2023, and I have recently been admitted to the University of Utah to pursue my PhD in organic synthesis and materials which I will begin in August of 2023.

In 2016, I moved from Perth, Western Australia to Bend, Oregon in light of achieving dual citizen rights and new life experiences. I attended high school in Bend, which in terms of academics and athletics, is a very competitive high school relative to my schooling in Australia. I started out very poorly with respect to academics and creating a new social network around me.

As I scraped through my sophomore year of high school, I was given the opportunity to apply to The Office Group, which I became a member of for my junior and senior years of high school. The Office Group provided me with mentoring and tutoring services on a personal level and helped develop my work ethic into what it is today.

As my junior year of high school began, I hadn't put an inkling of thought into whether I wanted to attend college or even what I wanted to pursue for a career. As a member of The Office Group, I had the opportunity to work with a mentor day in and day out who taught me about the college process in the United States as well as offering me assistance in shaping my college applications and resume. My parents had little to no clue about the college process in the United States, and as we were living paycheck to paycheck, they had little to no time to learn themselves, nevertheless, teach me. Due to The Office Group's ability to not only provide me with mentorship services, but safe places to study and tutoring services, I was able to raise my ACT score by 6 points and also raise my high school GPA to a 3.8.

I was awarded a scholarship at the University of Oregon, known as the Pathways Scholarship, which waives tuition for all four years of undergraduate studies. Now I'm in my fourth year of said scholarship at the University of Oregon and I don't have a dime of student debt. The Office Group played a vital role in assisting me through the college process, as well as establishing a unique and outstanding network of people around me.

There are many other students with stories similar to mine whose lives have been improved tenfold by the opportunity to be a member of The Office Group. The Office Group impacted me in an extremely positive way, and there is no chance I would have the

opportunity to pursue a doctorate degree in one of the most challenging scientific fields without the experiences I gained.